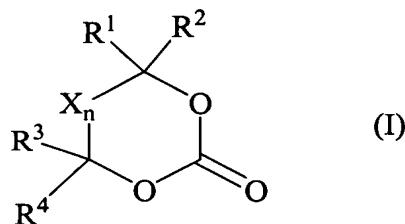


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process comprising hydroformylating an olefinically unsaturated compound having from 3 to 24 carbon atoms in the presence of at least one metal of groups 8 to 10 of the Periodic Table of the Elements as catalyst, wherein the hydroformylation is carried out in the presence of at least 0.1 mol%, based on the olefinically unsaturated compound, of at least one cyclic carbonic ester of the formula I



where

R¹, R², R³, R⁴ are identical or different and are each H or a substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic, alicyclic, aromatic, aliphatic-alicyclic, aliphatic-aromatic or alicyclic-aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 27 carbon atoms,

n is 0-5

X is a divalent substituted or unsubstituted, aliphatic, alicyclic, aromatic, aliphatic-alicyclic or aliphatic-aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 27 carbon atoms,

and at least one ligand which contains no sulfonic acid group or sulfonate group, wherein the cyclic carbonic ester component is present in solvent amounts for the catalyst.

Claim 2 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein R¹, R², R³, R⁴ and X are substituted by identical or different substituents selected from among O, N, NH, N-alkyl

and N-dialkyl radicals, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, -OH, OR, -CN, -C(O)alkyl or -C(O)O-alkyl.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hydroformylation is carried out in the presence of at least 0.1 mol%, based on the olefinically unsaturated compound, of at least one solvent which is relatively nonpolar compared to the cyclic carbonic ester I and is immiscible with the cyclic carbonic ester I.

Claim 4 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbons having from 5 to 50 carbon atoms, olefinically unsaturated compounds or olefins having from 3 to 24 carbon atoms are used as nonpolar solvent.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the output from the hydroformylation reaction is separated into a fraction comprising predominantly the catalyst and the cyclic carbonic ester and a fraction comprising predominantly the hydroformylation products.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim [[1]] 3, wherein the output from the hydroformylation reaction is separated into a fraction comprising predominantly the catalyst and a nonpolar solvent and a fraction comprising predominantly the hydroformylation products and the cyclic carbonic ester.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the output from the hydroformylation reaction is separated into a fraction comprising

predominantly the catalyst and unreacted olefinically unsaturated compounds and a fraction comprising predominantly the hydroformylation products and the cyclic carbonic ester.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fraction comprising the catalyst is recirculated to the hydroformylation reaction.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cyclic carbonic ester used is ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate or butylene carbonate or a mixture thereof.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hydroformylation is carried out in the presence of phosphonites, phosphites, phosphine oxides, phosphines, phosphinites, phosphinines and/or phosphinanes.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein unreacted olefinically unsaturated compounds (olefins) are separated off from the reactor output or from the hydroformylation products and are recirculated to the hydroformylation reaction.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein unreacted olefinically unsaturated compounds are separated off from the reactor output or from the hydroformylation products and are used in a second reaction stage.

Claim 13 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, which is carried out in the absence of carboxylic acids.

Claim 14 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metal comprises rhodium.

Claim 15 (New): The process as claimed in claim 9, wherein the cyclic carbonic ester used comprises propylene carbonate.

Claim 16 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cyclic carbonic ester component is present in an amount by weight greater than the amount of olefinically unsaturated compound.